

Self-Directed Theme Project – Mrs. Senft

Task: Develop a “marketable” project (designed to attract customers) that will demonstrate your analysis and interpretation of literature from one of our literature book themes and from another literary source

Scenario: Assume I am a publisher who wants you to create theme-based projects/products to attract readers/listeners/viewers and thereby increase my literature sales. You are to use your creativity in devising your project. You will need to draw upon or incorporate 3 pieces of literature you have chosen from your thematic unit and another piece of literature you’ve found from a different source. Your project should show how all of your selected stories/poems, etc., tie together under your literature book theme. **Tap into your creative side.** This is **not** a written essay task, although you will be asked to include certain written aspects of the project.

Potential Ideas (By no means your only choices)

Create a printed media display; a piece of artwork; a video that doesn’t directly try to sell but interprets the theme in some way; a pod cast (talk show) interview discussing the theme and its relevance, including the lit pieces you’ve chosen in the interview comments; a script containing scenes from potential TV show episodes that would be coming from your theme and film them, using the “actors/actresses” of your choice. Create a comic/brochure style piece. Design a video game complete with a professional-looking presentation of how the game would work, how it relates to the theme, etc.

These are just ideas to get you thinking. I want you to challenge yourselves to create a project that would land the account if this were a real advertising request. We’re going for soft sell, meaning that the project is so good that it sells itself without obvious advertising language or gimmicks.

The Process (in general)

1. Choose a theme from our literature book and submit your choice to me.
2. Consider the various meanings of the theme in small group discussions.
3. Also discuss ways to create these projects and resources needed.
4. Submit your project choice. Create a rubric for your project, to be evaluated and agreed upon by me.
5. Create a plan and a schedule to prioritize, plan, and manage this project to meet your deadline. Submit periodic journals of your progress toward meeting your planned goals.
6. Read/analyze 3 selections found under your chosen theme. Determine how these pieces relate to your theme.
7. Find and read/analyze another published piece or form of literature (e.g., poetry) that contains the same theme and include that piece as part of your project. Also analyze how your theme is relevant in society today and include that in your project representation.

8. Consider copyright issues if you borrow images, music, etc., from the web.
9. Create a bibliography for all sources used.
10. Use technology to locate additional project resources or to create your final project.
11. As part of your project, you are to write out your thought processes as to how you pulled this project together. I want you to evaluate your prioritizing, planning, and managing of the project and to assess how it went. How did you begin? What did you do first, next, etc.? How did you choose your theme/literature? How well did your time management and use of resources go? What worked well for you or didn't in this whole process/project?
12. Finally, you are to present your final product to me/the class, explaining how your project interprets your theme, is also evident today, and how your pieces of literature work under that theme.

Literature to be assigned for **Whole-Class Readings**

(Although you may still use these in your project if you wish)

The Most Dangerous Game
The Possibility of Evil
The Cask of Amontillado
Song of the Open Road/The Road Not Taken
I Have a Dream
The Scarlet Ibis
Romeo and Juliet

Some class time will be provided for the following things:

Developing your plan/timeline/priorities
Comic Life, Pages, Key Note, Power Point, iMovie/iSight camera/pod cast
software as options
Theme analysis group discussions
Rubric development
Computer research/project development – have a means of saving your project (pen drive, etc.)
Reading
Creating and submitting project progress journal

Materials and Equipment Available:

laptops, still and video cameras, iPods, storage devices (pocket drive, etc.), and an instructional adviser from the district as needed.

Evaluation of Project

I will use the following means of assessing your project:

- Observation of on-task behavior in class to help measure productivity level
- Submission of various tasks by deadlines – journals, choices, preliminary project drafts, and level of development, etc.
- Evaluation of projects using the rubric criteria
- Development level of your self-analysis for the project, as well as your analysis of your own thinking, planning, and producing process
- Presentation skills exhibited for delivering the final project

Due Dates (subject to change)

9/5 – choice of theme due

9/10 – first progress journal due (intended weekly project tasks; actual tasks done)

9/14 – type of project due along with your rubric/criteria for assessing the final project

9/17 – second progress journal due (same as first journal)

9/21 – written explanation/rough sketch of project due, explaining intended details

9/24 – 3rd progress journal due (same as first journal)

10/2 – Final project due/class presentation; written self-analysis and analysis of the total process due

Self-Directed Project Evaluation Sheet – (10 points per item unless noted below)

Project Type: _____

Overall visually appealing/attractive – draws viewer in (15) _____

Creativity – goes beyond the standard or routine _____

Quantity and type of images in relation to chosen theme (20) _____

Theme and titles of all 4 works used are evident and clearly tied together (20) _____

Connection/relevance of theme today _____

Attention to detail/editing – number of proofreading errors _____

Organization – logical; enhances; doesn't detract _____

Layout and/or overall design _____

Music choice appropriate (if applicable to project) _____

Bibliography (in print, if not an electronic project) _____

Written analysis of overall project process – includes prioritizing, planning and managing; evaluates how well you did in all areas/goals set, met, self-knowledge gained (20) _____

The analysis is to be typed and submitted along with the project. It can be an electronic submission via the Drop Box, along with your project.

Class presentation – professional approach; audience awareness (15) _____

Total: _____/150 or 160

Attach a printed copy of the 4th piece of literature you are using. Title/author and the actual work should be included.